

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /138 W

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FM AMEMBASSS CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5820

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: PRESS STRESS ON CLOSE GOE/USG RELATIONS

1. FOR PAST FEW DAYS UNITED STATES HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF EXTRAORDINARY VOLUME OF REPORTAGE AND COMMENTARY--VIRTUALLY ALL FAVORABLE--IN EGYPTIAN MEDIA. FULL TEXT LENGTHY SADAT INTERVIEW WITH NEWSWEEK'S DE BORCHGRAVE WAS FEATURED IN ALL ARABIC LANGUAGE PAPERS MARCH 18, AND WAS READ OVER CAIRO RADIO IN PLACE OF DAILY COMMENTARY. FOLLOWING DAY, SAME TREATMENT WAS ACCORDED TO SADAT INTERVIEW WITH HEDLEY DONOVAN OF TIME. WE UNDERSTAND BOTH ARTICLES WILL APPEAR IN UP-COMING EDITION OF THE TWO MAGAZINES, BUT IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE EDITING IN NEW YORK, WE ARE POUCHING TO DEPT MENA TRANSLATION OF VERBATIM TEXTS RELEASED BY PRESIDENCY.

2. TIME'S CAIRO BUREAU CHIEF WHO WAS PRESENT AT DONOVAN INTERVIEW TOLD US HE WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK WITH SADAT'S DECLARATION OF FAITH IN USG, A POINT ALSO MADE BY PRESIDENT TO DE BORCHGRAVE. PRESSED ON REASONS FOR THIS CONFIDENCE IN USG GOOD FAITH, SADAT FIRMLY REITERATED TO DONOVAN HIS PERSONAL TRUST IN SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT NIXON.

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3. SINCE SADAT DOES NOT MAKE PRACTICE OF ACCORDING IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS TO JOURNALISTS, HIS AGREEING TO SEE TWO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN SUCCESSION HAS BEEN WIDELY NOTED HERE, AND FITS IN WITH RECENT EXTENSIVE AND FRIENDLY PRESS PLAY ON US AFFAIRS. ON MARCH 19, FOR EXAMPLE, AKHBAR FRONT PAGE HAD SIX STORIES ON AMERICAN SUBJECTS INCLUDING AN ITEM HEADLINED: "US OPPOSES ISRAEL'S STAND ON SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT." ALL ARABIC, FRENCH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS ON THAT DATE RAN A SINGLE PHOTO ON FRONT PAGE, WHICH OF SMILING SADAT RECEIVING AMBASSADOR EILTS. SINCE ONLY "STORY" ACCOMPANYING PHOTO WAS THAT PRESIDENT HAD SEEN AMBASSADOR PREVIOUS DAY, SIGNAL WAS UNMISTAKABLE THAT GOE/USG RELATIONS ARE AT HIGH POINT.
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